



December 9, 2004



Man pleads guilty to firearms offense

Duane Taylor, a convicted felon, fled from police and discarded a pistol

Duane Taylor, 21, has pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm, admitting that he fled from Providence Police officers last August and tossed away a handgun.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the guilty plea, which Taylor entered on December 7 before U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi in U.S. District Court, Providence. Taylor, whose address is not reflected in court records, is detained in federal custody pending sentencing, which is scheduled for March 11.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee said that, had the case gone to trial, the government would have proven that, on August 9, as Providence Police Officers Dennis O'Brien and Thomas Zincone approached a group of people outside 49 Salmon Street, Taylor broke from the group, began to run, and tossed away a chrome pistol. With Zincone chasing on foot and O'Brien in their patrol car, the officers apprehended Taylor and retrieved the gun, a 9-millimeter pistol with a chambered round and seven rounds in the magazine.

Taylor has two prior convictions for drug trafficking and, as a felon, is prohibited from possessing firearms. The statutory maximum penalty for being a felon in possession of a

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firearm is ten years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Federal sentencing is determined on the basis of guidelines that rely on such factors as the specific nature of an offense and a defendant's criminal background.

Providence Police and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Chafee is prosecuting it as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, ATF, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 540 years in federal prison.

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